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SUBJECT: USEB 112: DEPUTY SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH IRAQI PRIME MINISTER ALLAWI

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR JOHN D. NEGROPONTE FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D).

**¶11. (C) SUMMARY.** Prime Minister Allawi told the Deputy Secretary that he and his counterparts in the Arab world are looking forward to his tour of the region. Allawi plans to have an open and honest discussion with Syria about their involvement in Iraqi affairs. He would like to see Interior Ministers of regional states work together to address border security issues. Allawi said he believes that the Government is making headway against the insurgents, and he has told those fighting the Interim Government that they are welcome in the political process on condition that they work within the law. Planning for the National Conference is coming along, but logistics and security are proving to be obstacles. The Deputy Secretary engaged Allawi on ways to use the UN General Assembly to Iraq's advantage, and he noted that the U.S. Congress plans to stay engaged in Iraq. Allawi said prompt implementation of U.S. reconstruction projects is essential to easing Iraq's unemployment problem. END SUMMARY.

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ALLAWI TO KEY ON SYRIA FIRST  
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**¶12. (C)** Deputy Secretary Armitage met with Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi on July 18. Ambassador Negroponte, Assistant Secretary Burns, and MNF-I Commander General Casey also attended the meeting. Allawi opened the meeting by noting that he will leave July 19 on a trip to Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, the UAE, and Kuwait. He said he believes his Arab neighbors are looking forward to this visit. He plans to consult with them extensively about Iraq's security.

**¶13. (C)** Allawi said that he hopes he can reason with Bashar Al-Asad of Syria, but he will be open and honest about the role that Syria has played in the insurgency in Iraq. He said that his strategy for now is to neutralize the Syrian threat because the bigger threat is from Iran. Allawi plans to ask King Abdullah of Jordan and President Mubarak of Egypt to put pressure on Asad to control the "nerve center" of foreign fighters and resources to the insurgency in Iraq. The Deputy Secretary and Allawi agreed that Asad is too weak to control the elements coming out of Syria. Allawi added that there is also evidence that Syrians are trying to rebuild the Ba'ath party under another name to run for elections in January in Iraq. Allawi mentioned that Prime Minister Hariri of Lebanon told Deputy PM Barham Salih that Iraq will not make any headway with the Syrians. However, Allawi plans to push the Syrians and demonstrate to them that a stable Iraq is in their long-term interest.

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CONTRIBUTING TO THE UN PROTECTION FORCE  
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**¶14. (C)** The Deputy Secretary briefed Allawi on his discussions with India and Pakistan concerning assistance to Iraqi security forces and troop contributions for the UN protection force. The Deputy Secretary told Allawi that neither he nor Secretary Powell could get a commitment from the Pakistanis to contribute troops to Iraq, noting that the GOP may not want to be the first Muslim country to commit troops. Allawi offered to call Musharaf to discuss the issue with him, but the Deputy Secretary

encouraged him to wait. The Deputy Secretary said that the Indian Government has clearly limited its offer of support to training Iraqis in India.

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DEALING WITH THE INSURGENTS  
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15. (C) With the exception of the past few days, Allawi said that he thought that the Interim Government was making headway against the insurgents. He told the Deputy Secretary that he had some discussions with insurgents and he delivered a firm message: "bring on violence and we will fight you; you are welcome in the political process, but you must work within the law." The Deputy Secretary asked about the situation in Samara, which Allawi acknowledged is a problematic area. Allawi described how he had met with Samarans with the clear message that unless they choose the political path, he would confront them. Allawi added that the Samarans did not have too many demands, and those that they have can be met. Allawi outlined his demands of the Samarans: 1) surrender criminals; 2) cooperate with the multinational forces; and 3) pass information to the authorities that will improve security. He underscored that he has constantly emphasized that nobody is above the law and criminals will be punished.

16. (C) Allawi told the Deputy Secretary that the IIG is working to ensure that essential services are provided. U.S. reconstruction projects are very important because they will alleviate the unemployment problem Iraqis face. Allawi has asked his ministers to provide weekly reports on essential services so that he can track improvements and publicize successes. He has also asked the Minister of Health to report on civilian casualties caused by insurgents and the Minister of Electricity to report on the how the insurgents have affected the use of electricity in Iraq. Allawi plans to publicize the reports to show Iraqis how disruptive the insurgents are to the Iraqis' safety, security, and well-being.

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THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
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17. (C) Although the political process is moving forward and preparations for the National Conference are coming along, Allawi said that logistics such as hotel rooms, Conference venue, and security are key challenges. Allawi would like to see the Conference shortened to two or even one day from its current three days in order to ease the logistical and security difficulties. He said that the Conference will either take place at the Convention Center or at Baghdad University. "We are definitely going to proceed with it," he added. The Deputy Secretary underscored the importance of the Conference, adding that it will be a milestone for Iraq, demonstrating to Iraqis and the international community the Government's ability to make decisions and follow through on initiatives.

18. (C) Allawi mentioned that Iraq is still lacking a good program for reconciliation and national unity but he hopes that the National Conference will be a starting point for discussions. He added that he hopes his trip through the region will help with a dialogue on reconciliation. He also wants to organize a meeting of the interior ministers from Iraq's neighbors to discuss the security situation and border security which will help with the same process of reconciliation.

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UNGA AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR IRAQ  
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19. (C) The Deputy Secretary urged Allawi to make good use of the UN General Assembly session in September to talk with his counterparts in the Arab world and beyond. Allawi acknowledged that he had not thought about UNGA, but he did not think that it would be particularly useful. Instead, he proposed a meeting that would include G-8 countries, Egypt, Morocco, and other Islamic countries to specifically discuss the stability of Iraq. Allawi said that such a meeting could empower Iraq to send a

message to Iran and Syria, and he thought it would be a useful tool to reflect on security in the region.

¶10. (C) The meeting ended by Allawi thanking the Deputy Secretary for the United States' continued support. The Deputy Secretary stressed the U.S. commitment to Iraq. The U.S. is focused on speeding up the disbursement of funds that Congress appropriated for Iraq's reconstruction. Ambassador Negroponte added that he and the Deputy Prime Minister met to discuss forming a joint U.S.-Iraqi committee that will talk about the best way to spend the appropriations.

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